



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY:

*Safeguarding  
Hoosiers by  
Planning,  
Preparing and  
Responding*

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# THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

Volume 2, Issue 8

August 2006

## First State-Sponsored Firefighter Training Center Opens in Auburn

AUBURN, Indiana—On August 9, Governor Mitch Daniels dedicated the first state-sponsored firefighter training center. The new Auburn Fire Training Center will serve as a central training hub for firefighters from across Northeast Indiana.

The Indiana Fire Training System will standardize training that previously has been done independently by hundreds of fire departments across the state. Indiana is one of the last states to operate without such a system. State government, in coordination with local governments, plans to establish regional training cen-

they have hoped for an academy like other states. We take our commitments very seriously, and today we're delighted to deliver on an important one," said Daniels.

Doug Cox, the Auburn Fire Department training chief, said the system will help fire departments small and large by providing access to important training tools.

"This center will also help enhance the working relationships we have with other area fire departments that we sometimes work with when responding to a large fire," said Cox.

"This represents a big stepping stone for the training needs of all Indiana firefighters and will help us achieve the ultimate goal of making sure all firefighters go home safely at the end of the day," said William Harter, Angola Fire Department captain and chair of the District 3 Training Committee.

*Above: IDHS Executive Director Eric Dietz addresses the crowd at the dedication of the Auburn training center.*



ters in all 10 Indiana Homeland Security Districts.

"I learned from firefighters while traveling the state how long



*Above: Governor Daniels and State Fire Marshal Roger Johnson unveil the signage for Indiana's first state-sponsored firefighter training center in Auburn.*

The new system has three primary objectives:

- Deliver consistent, high quality training as closely to each firefighter's home as practical
- Build collaboration among Indiana fire departments and strong partnerships between state and local government, as well as the private sector.

- Increase the response capabilities and expertise of the Indiana Fire Service sector.

Legislation approved earlier this year and signed into law by the governor included a new five percent safety fee on the sales



*Above: Governor Daniels speaks with a future firefighter at the Auburn ceremony.*

of fireworks, which is providing funding for the establishment of the training system.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

## Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Awards Grants, Creates Scholarship Program



### HOOSIER SAFETY LICENSE PLATES HELP FUND IMPORTANT PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES

**Indianapolis** - The Indiana Homeland Security Foundation has awarded nearly \$474,000 in grants to public safety organizations around the state to help fund important public safety initiatives. The money for these grants was largely generated through the sale of Hoosier Safety license plates.

"This money will help the recipient organizations purchase equipment or implement programs that will result in an even higher level of public safety for the citizens they serve," said Indiana Department of Homeland Security Executive Director J. Eric Dietz. "In turn, this will help our agency achieve the broader goal of doing all we can to safeguard all Hoosiers."

More than \$300,000 will go to fire departments around the state, which will use the funds for a variety of purposes such as the purchase of important equipment like defibrillators and computers. Others will use the funds to help cover costs associated with training and education.

In addition, the Foundation also approved a proposal to set aside \$40,000 for a new program that will allow the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to provide \$2,000 scholarships to students interested in pursuing careers in some form of public safety. This program will be developed during the coming months.

More information about the Hoosier Safety license plate can be found by going to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Web site at <http://www.in.gov/dhs> and clicking on the license plate at the bottom of the home page.

Source: IDHS Media Release 7/31/06

### INDIANA HOMELAND SECURITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW SCHOLARSHIP

**Indianapolis** - The Indiana Homeland Security Foundation has announced the creation of a new scholarship program for students interested in pursuing careers in public safety.

The Hoosier Safety Scholarship Program is for Indiana residents who are interested in a higher education degree and who currently volunteer with a local public safety organization. Incoming and continuing students are both eligible to apply. Hoosier Safety Scholarships at \$2,000 for full-time students and \$1,000 for part-time students can be awarded to applicants enrolled in an accredited college in Indiana.

"This new scholarship represents a great opportunity for our agency to contribute to

the future of public safety in Indiana," said Indiana Department of Homeland Security Executive Director J. Eric Dietz. "We are proud that we can make this scholarship available to help Hoosiers who desire to make a difference in their communities through a career in public safety."

The Indiana Homeland Security Foundation recently approved \$40,000 for the creation of this scholarship program. The revenue for the Foundation is generated largely through the sales of "Hoosier Safety" license plates.

More information about the Hoosier Safety Scholarship Program and a link to the application can be found by going to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Web site at <http://www.in.gov/dhs> and clicking on the Hoosier Safety license plate at the bottom of the home page.

Source: IDHS Media Release 8/8/06

For more information on the grant program, contact Dolly Watkins, Council Coordinator, IDHS Division of Planning, at 317-233-4477 or [dwatkins@dhs.in.gov](mailto:dwatkins@dhs.in.gov). For more information on the scholarship program, contact Joanna Cornwell, Program Coordinator, IDHS Division of Planning, at 317-234-4554 or [jcornwell@dhs.in.gov](mailto:jcornwell@dhs.in.gov).

## A Message from the State Fire Marshal...

### OLDER ADULTS AT RISK FOR FIRE DEATH AND INJURY

Older adults are the fastest growing age group of the American population and are one of the groups at highest risk for fire deaths. Based on 1995-1999 annual averages, adults 65 and older also face a risk twice the average, while

people 85 and older have a risk that is four-and-a-half times more than average, according to National Fire Prevention Association. Examining the problem further, data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System reports that two-thirds of fire deaths in the elderly occur when the victim is sleeping or trying to escape, which reinforces the need to

stress the importance of preparing and practicing an escape plan, and adjusting that plan to take into consideration the physical capabilities of older adults. During 2005, over one-third of the fire fatalities occurred in people over 60.

Older adults may have decreased mobility and other health issues that would

prohibit a quick response during a fire emergency. Many older adults take multiple medications that could lead to a slower response or confusion, altering the decision-making process. The impairments caused by the combination of alcohol and

continued on pg. 6



## Search and Rescue Professionals from Across the Nation Utilizing an IDHS Asset

On a recent hot summer day in central Indiana, a pool at Camp Atterbury saw a steady stream of visitors. The furry, four-legged "visitors", however, only made brief stops at the pool (small, blue plastic kind you played in your backyard as a kid, not the Olympic size kind). They only stopped to cool off a bit before returning to the purpose they were there for - to learn.



Above: Don Cotrone of New York working with his partner, Buddy, on scent detection.

The event this steamy July day at the IDHS Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Center, located on Camp Atterbury, was a cadaver-training course instructed by the center's manager, Lillian Hardy. Search and rescue professionals from around the country gathered at the facility with their K-9 partners for the three-day intensive course.

Search and rescue training opportunities abound across the country. However, in many cases, the classroom portion takes place at one

location and the hands-on training at another. Additionally, there is often a high cost associated with offering search and rescue training. None of these factors hold true at the IDHS center. The IDHS Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Center offers classroom and hands-on training on-site, including numerous courses conducted free of charge.

The uniqueness of the center and lack of available training facilities across the country was evident at the cadaver-training course. Two-thirds of

the participants came from outside of Indiana to attend the course, including Missouri, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York.

Kathy Roeder and her partner, Cooper, from Gateway Search Dogs in Missouri returned for yet another course at the center. "Few states offer anything like this," said Kathy. "You can find the components of these courses but to have it all in one place is great."

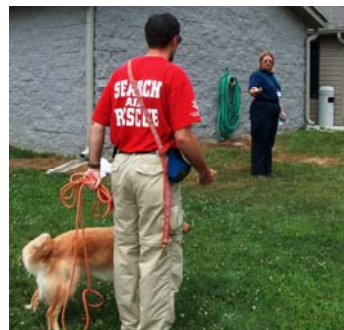
According to Don Cotrone, with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in New York, who brought his partner, Buddy

to the center because there is nothing similar available on the east coast. "I wish they had something like this in New York," said Don.

Sonya Egan, a volunteer with the Henry County EMA, and her partner, Maverick, took part in the July course. "I have been so impressed with the facility and personalized assistance during training. Even more, it's free."

*All Hoosiers can soon take a look at this IDHS jewel that emergency response professionals from across the country already recognize as a leading search and rescue center. On Saturday, September 30, IDHS will host an open house at the center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, contact Lillian Hardy, Manager, IDHS Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Training Center at 800-200-7424 or lhardy@dhs.in.gov. Please remember you must present photo identification at the front gate to gain entry to Camp Atterbury.*

Left: Lillian Hardy provides instruction to a course participant from Michigan.



## NIMS Corner...

Click here to visit the U.S. DHS NIMS website!  
Click here to visit the IDHS NIMS website!

### NIMCAST CRITICAL DEADLINE APPROACHING: Compliance by the September 30 deadline will affect your funding!

The Federally mandated deadline for compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements is September 30, 2006. Achieving this compliance is critically important since it will directly affect the distribution of 2006 homeland security funding.

As of August 15, 40 counties have not created accounts in NIMCAST for reporting of compliance status. These counties are in immediate danger of losing funding. The remaining 52 counties have made progress but currently are not ready to submit their combined reports.

These counties must expedite their efforts in order to receive funding.

Each county is responsible for deciding (using the guidance given) which agencies in the county are responsible for reporting through the NIMCAST and coming into compliance. Local jurisdictions must complete several activities by the September 30 deadline to comply with Federal NIMS requirements. This includes a requirement for counties to provide a signed letter stating that they are NIMS compliant. As of August 15, only two counties have submitted their letters of

complete compliance.

IDHS is committed to helping local governments achieve this compliance by providing several resources to assist local governments obtain the information and training they need.

The web-based NIMCAST program will help local governments set the necessary goals to achieve compliance. It will also serve as a reporting tool to help IDHS stay up-to-date with the status of compliance activities around the state so we can maximize our assistance efforts.

NIMS classes are available online at [www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtm). NIMS classes are also available through the IDHS Training Division. A list of currently scheduled classes is available at [www.in.gov/dhs/training](http://www.in.gov/dhs/training). Once you have accessed the calendar, you can select the NIMS courses from the column on the right hand side of the page. All training offered by IDHS meets NIMS compliance requirements.

For more information on NIMS policy, contact David Barrabee, Homeland Security Planner, IDHS Division of Planning, at 317-233-6116 or [dbarrabee@dhs.in.gov](mailto:dbarrabee@dhs.in.gov). For NIMCAST queries please contact Yolanda Hoskins, NIMCAST assistant, at 317-234-4466 or [nimcast@dhs.in.gov](mailto:nimcast@dhs.in.gov).





## August Spotlight...

### BOONE COUNTY EMA

Mike Martin is the Director of the Boone County Emergency Management Agency. Appointed in 1999, he brought with him a great deal of experience to the position. Mike is in his 22<sup>nd</sup> year of service with the Thorntown Fire Department and currently serves as Chief. He also was commander of the Boone County Sheriff's Department Reserve Program from 1986 to 2002. In addition, Mike's certifications include Master Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician, Haz-Mat Technician, Haz-Mat Instructor, and CPR Instructor. The Boone County Chamber of Commerce also honored Mike in 1994 as Firefighter of the Year and in 1996 as Police Officer of the Year. As a part-time director, Mike also works for Eli Lilly and Company as a fire inspector.



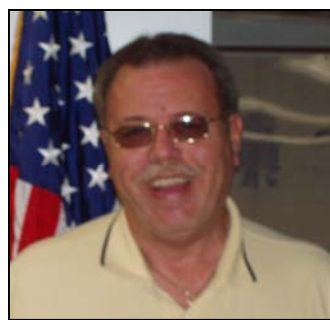
**Mike Martin, Director**  
Boone County Emergency Management  
1905 Indianapolis Avenue  
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#### Boone County EMA Progress:

- Utilized Homeland Security Grant Program funds to purchase 800 MHz Radio System and Dispatch and Control Center (DCC).
  - The DCC, a state of the art and secure facility, housed in the basement of the Boone County jail, is designed for six full-time employees and includes four positions for dispatching on the 800MHz simulcast and existing radio systems, a system for mapping, and a 9-1-1 telephone system.
- In addition to the expansion of equipment and facilities at the Boone County jail, the radio transmit and receive facilities included a new 195 foot tower with equipment shelter and a standby generator and the installation of equipment shelters, antennas and standby generators on two existing towers.

### HOWARD COUNTY EMA

Larry Smith is the Director of the Kokomo/Howard County Emergency Management Agency. He started with the agency as a volunteer in 1983 before becoming director the following year. Larry, a former Navy Seal, served as Assistant Chief of Harrison Township Volunteer Fire Department and the Howard County Sheriff's Department as a jailer and dispatcher prior to joining the agency. He serves on the Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana board as well as chair of the Public Safety for Kokomo and Howard County Committee, which oversees use of homeland security funds within the community and is in charge of ensuring NIMS training for all appropriate agencies. Larry has two staff members and three volunteer staff officers.



#### Kokomo/Howard County EMA Progress:

- Utilized Homeland Security Grant Program funds to:
  - Purchase 800 MHz radios.
  - Purchase towers and computers for wireless network to support interoperability.
- Reorganized agency into five separate departments: police, fire, rescue, communications, and amateur radio.
- Since 1984 acquired and maintains 38 pieces of equipment, including 15 fully equipped squad cars, three ambulances, tankers, pumpers, Haz-Mat equipment, generators, numerous trucks, and a semi-mobile command vehicle.
- Currently working on a pandemic flu plan with the Public Safety for Kokomo and Howard County Committee.

**Larry Smith, Director**  
Kokomo/Howard County Emergency Management  
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## IDHS MCC Continues Statewide Tour



On August 1, IDHS began touring Indiana's ten homeland security districts (HSD) to display its new Mobile Command Center (MCC). The center will serve as a mobile emergency operations center for the State of Indiana when responding to events throughout the state. In addition to

local officials and responders, the public is welcome to tour the MCC to learn how IDHS will utilize it to coordinate among state agencies, manage command control in the field, and integrate into the local command system.

Schedule for remaining MCC Statewide Tour stops (all times are local):

August 28: HSD #4 10am-1pm  
Lafayette Fire Department Station #5, Lafayette  
August 29: HSD #1 10am-1pm  
Expo Center, Valparaiso  
August 30: HSD #2 10am-1pm  
Pilgrim Place Shopping Center, Plymouth  
August 31: HSD #3 10am-1pm  
Wal-Mart (intersection of US 24 & SR 5), Huntington

## IERC Welcomes New Members

The four new Indiana Emergency Response Commission (IERC) members are Bernie Beier of Fort Wayne, Michael Pace of Gary, Bob Reilley of Indianapolis, and Carol Shelby of West Lafayette.

**Bernie Beier** is the Fort Wayne-Allen County Office of Homeland Security Director. Previously, he served as Director of Homeland Security for the City of Fort Wayne and served in the United States Marine Corps as a Counter Intelligence Specialist. Bernie is a combat veteran and served on several Joint Task Forces dealing with intelligence and terrorism. In his current position, Bernie determines and implements local strategy for homeland security, in addition to providing leadership and coordination between agencies, jurisdictions and organizations.

**Michael Pace** is the Department Manager of Security and Fire Services for United States Steel. He is responsible for the administration and oversight of all Security and Fire functions for three plants located in Indiana and one in

Chicago. United States Steel utilizes a public safety model encompassing police type duties, manual fire fighting, emergency medical services, rescue, and hazardous material response. Michael is a veteran of the United States Navy and currently serves on the Lake County LEPC, the Board of Directors of the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.

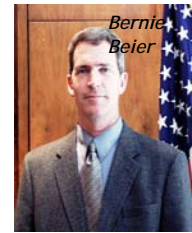
**Bob Reilley** is the Director of Global Security for Eli Lilly and Company. He is responsible for the protection of Lilly employees, stakeholders and physical assets worldwide. Bob joined Eli Lilly in 2002 after retiring as the Special Agent in Charge of the Indianapolis Division of the FBI. He served 24 years with the FBI and held investigative and supervisory positions in Kansas City, Washington D.C., and Chicago. Bob also served for eight years as a Chicago police officer.

**Carol Shelby** is the Senior Director of Environmental Health and Public Safety at

Purdue University in West Lafayette. Carol serves as the leader of Purdue Fire, Purdue Police, Parking Services, Fire Protection Engineering, and Radiological and Environmental Management. She serves on the Tippecanoe County LEPC and is in her third term as chair of the committee.

The IERC, chaired by the IDHS Executive Director and vice-chaired by the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, supervises and coordinates the activities of the Indiana's 92 local emergency planning committees (LEPC), in addition to maintaining Superfund Amendment and Reauthorizations Act Title III records. The LEPCs, comprised of elected officials and representatives from law enforcement, emergency management, fire-fighting, emergency medical services, health, local environmental management, hospital management, transportation, broadcast and print media, community groups, and owners and operators of facilities storing and using Title III chemicals.

### IERC's New Members



## Announcements

**Beginning with the September issue of *The Hoosier Responder*, IDHS will send its newsletter to only registered e-mail addresses.**

To register to receive *The Hoosier Responder* via e-mail **CLICK HERE**. Fill out the portion under "Subscribing to Dhs\_hoosier\_responder." Please do not "post" a message to all the list members. You may receive duplicate copies after registering your e-mail address. We respectfully request your patience as we build our distribution list.

**The 2006 Emergency Response Conference will take place September 14-17 at the Marriot East in Indianapolis.** Program registration and information is available at [www.in.gov/dhs/fire/branches/ems/conf/06erc.html](http://www.in.gov/dhs/fire/branches/ems/conf/06erc.html).

**The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Life Safety Initiative Resource Kit is now available online** at [www.everyonegoeshome.com/resources/](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/resources/). This kit is part of focused effort to help reduce firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries nationwide and is a powerful media and training tool created by the NFFF as part of its "Everyone Goes Home" program.

**The U.S.DHS' Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties released a number of updates on federal emergency preparedness activities relating to people with disabilities.** Included are such resources as An ADA Guide for Local Governments: Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities, available at [www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/emergencyprep.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/emergencyprep.htm) and a Preparedness Directorate Information Bulletin, available at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/info197.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/info197.pdf).

**The 2006 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) Grant Application Period is now open!** CEDAP is administered by the U.S.DHS Preparedness Directorate's Office of Grants and Training (G&T), and transfers technologies directly to smaller jurisdictions and eligible metropolitan areas. The application period is open until 5:00 p.m. EDT, Friday, September 22nd. Applications can be submitted via the Responder Knowledge Base at: [www.rkb.mipt.org](http://www.rkb.mipt.org). YOU MUST REGISTER ON THE RKB IN ORDER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION. The CEDAP Program will be the lead item under "RKB Recommends" on the RKB home page. Several related links will be provided there. Applicants are encouraged to download and review the Frequently Asked Questions and Sample Application prior to submitting their on-line applications. Questions: call the US DHS G&T's Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at 1-800-368-6498.

## A Message from the State Fire Marshal *cont'd from pg. 2*

prescription drugs in older adults can further impede judgment and escape. Such impairments may also lead to an increased likelihood of accidentally starting a fire and not detecting a fire in its early stages.

Following are some fire safety suggestions from the National Association of State Fire Marshals:

### INSTALL AND MAINTAIN SMOKE ALARMS

- Make sure smoke alarms are installed on each level of your home and outside all sleeping areas.
- Test them monthly and replace the batteries at least once a year.
- Caregivers are encouraged to check the smoke alarms of those who are unable to do it themselves. The chances of surviving a home fire almost doubles with the initial warning from a smoke alarm.

### PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

- Planning fire escape plans around one's capabilities is a key element to fire safety!

- Know at least two exits from every room.
- If you use a walker or wheelchair, check all exits to be sure they can go through the doorways.
- Make any necessary accommodations, such as providing exit ramps and widening doorways to facilitate an emergency escape.
- Unless instructed by the fire department, never use an elevator during a fire.

### DON'T ISOLATE YOURSELF

- Speak to your family members, building manager, or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice it with them.
- Contact your local fire department's non-emergency line and explain your special needs.
- The fire department will probably suggest escape plan ideas and may perform a home fire safety inspection and offer suggestions about smoke alarm placement and maintenance.
- Ask emergency providers to keep your special needs information on file.

### LIVE NEAR AN EXIT

- Although you have the legal right to live where you choose, you'll be safest on the ground floor if you live in an apartment building.
- If you live in a multi-story home, arrange to sleep on the ground floor, and near and exit.

### BE FIRE-SAFE AROUND THE HOME

- The leading cause of residential fire deaths among older adults is careless smoking.
- If you must smoke, never smoke in bed or near an oxygen source, gas stove, or other flammable object.
- When cooking, never approach an open flame while wearing loose clothing and don't leave cooking unattended. Use a timer to remind you of food in the oven.
- Don't overload electrical outlets or extension cords.
- Never use the oven to heat your home. Properly maintain chimneys and space heaters.
- Take special precaution if

you are on medication that makes you drowsy.

Often, help from a family member, caregiver or neighbor is often required to assist an older adult in safely exiting from a house fire. Addressing important issues before the fire occurs is essential. While developing a fire safety plan for older adults, heeding the advice from the United States Fire Administration is recommended.

Fire safety is everyone's responsibility. Taking advantage of modern technology by installing a residential sprinkler system is an option worth exploring, especially for people with mobility issues.



## Mark Your Calendar!

### August 30

EMA Directors Conference Call

### September 14-17

Emergency Response Conference (Indianapolis)

### September 18

Board of Firefighter Personnel Standards & Education (IDHS SAR Training Center, Camp Atterbury)

### September 27

EMA Directors Conference Call

### September 30

IDHS' Mari Hulman George Search & Rescue Training Center Open House (Camp Atterbury)

### October 25

EMA Directors Conference Call

### October 30

Board of Firefighter Personnel Standards & Education (Indianapolis)



## Please welcome to IDHS...

Eric Aquila, Inspector

IDHS Division of Fire & Building Safety

Stan Atkinson, Code Official

IDHS Division of Fire & Building Safety

James Whitaker, Inspector

IDHS Division of Fire & Building Safety

Michelle Milliken, Legislative Liaison

IDHS Division of Training



Check out IDHS Division of Training's calendar for all training opportunities at: [www.in.gov/dhs/training](http://www.in.gov/dhs/training)



*Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
Safeguarding Hoosiers by  
Planning, Preparing and Responding*

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*The Hoosier Responder* is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information and Outreach Office at 317-232-6632.